

EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

8 JULY 1999

**Recent approaches to Milton Keynes by other towns and communities**

A number of contacts have been made recently by other towns and communities these are detailed below.

**Almere, Netherlands**

There was a visit by a delegation of 5 elected members, the mayor, chief executive, deputy chief executive and lead officer of Almere in Netherlands between Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

The Competitive Bidding Unit team organised a series of meetings at the request of the visitors and this included a wide range of Members, including the Leader and Mayor; officers including the Chief Executive; community partners including London and Amsterdam who hosted a lunch for the group. The visitors were very appreciative of the welcome and reiterated their desire to see the contact continue as an opportunity to exchange views, to collaborate on joint applications for European Community funding, and for future activities such as those between schools.

The Chief Executive will make a report to the next Sub-committee meeting.

**Bialystok and Tychy, Poland**

Following a meeting in April, two Polish cities have shown an interest in links with MK.

Tychy is a new town in the Silesian area of Poland and, in the past, MK Council has applied for European funding for projects with Tychy as a partner. Tychy wishes to continue with this approach. Bialystok is a larger city near the border with Belarus, and they too have been named as a project partner in the past. However, Bialystok would like to see formal links between our two cities develop, though they would still like to be considered as possible project partners when appropriate.

**Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia**

At a meeting hosted by Invest in Milton Keynes, and attended by the then Mayor, Cllr Gillingham, representatives for the city of Nizhniy Novgorod came to ask that the city be considered for co-operative projects with Milton Keynes, in the hope that deep links may be forged over a period of long term co-operation . This is still at an exploratory level, and we await further developments.

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